

Orange County Natural Areas Inventory

ENO RIVER AQUATIC HABITAT

New Site 2004

Site Number: E01

Site Significance: National

Size: West Fork: ~2.25 river miles;

Unnamed tributary: ~1 river mile;

Eno River: ~19 river miles (in county)

USGS Quads: Cedar Grove, Efland,
Hillsborough, NW Durham

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES: The Orange County portion of this river contains a significant number of rare aquatic species, including the federally endangered dwarf wedgemussel (*Alasmodonta heterodon*), the federal species of concern and state endangered brook floater (*Alasmodonta varicosa*), Atlantic pigtoe (*Fusconaia masoni*), yellow lampmussel (*Lampsilis cariosa*), and green floater (*Lasmigona subviridis*), the federal species of concern and state significantly rare pinewoods shiner (*Lythrurus matutinus*), the federal and state species of concern Carolina darter (*Etheostoma collis*), the state threatened triangle floater (*Alasmodonta undulata*), eastern lampmussel (*Lampsilis radiata*) and creeper (*Strophitus undulatus*), the state special concern Neuse River waterdog (*Necturus lewisi*), notched rainbow (*Villosa constricta*) and the state significantly rare Roanoke bass (*Ambloplites cavifrons*).

LANDSCAPE RELATIONSHIPS: This site runs in two narrow east-southeast corridors in the central to eastern portion of the county (the site continues over the Durham County line). Several terrestrial sites are adjacent to the Eno River, including Eno River Duke Forest Mesic Slopes, Eno River/Cates Ford Slopes and Uplands, Middle Eno River Bluffs and Slopes, Occoneechee Mountain, Poplar Ridge Slopes and Bottom, and Eno River State Park Mountain Spleenwort and Rhododendron Bluff.

SITE DESCRIPTION: The Eno River is a large tributary of the Neuse River. The headwaters of the East and West Forks of the Eno River begin in northern Orange County near Cedar Grove. The site begins on both the West Fork of the Eno River and an unnamed tributary and flows southeast through central Orange County. The upper portion of the site is separated from the lower portion by two impoundments (Corporation Lake and Ben Johnson Lake). The lower portion of the site is the Eno River, and it flows east over the Orange/Durham county line. The West Fork portion of the site begins just upstream of the SR 1004 crossing (Carr Store Road), and the unnamed tributary portion of the site begins just downstream of the SR 1004 crossing. The lower portion starts just upstream of US 70 and continues across the Orange/Durham county line.

The Eno River has an extremely diverse aquatic fauna, including nine rare mussel species, three rare fish species and one rare amphibian. The Orange County portion of the Eno River contains one federally endangered mussel species—the dwarf wedgemussel (*Alasmodonta heterodon*). It has been found at one location in the county. In addition, the federal species of concern and state endangered brook floater (*Alasmodonta varicosa*), Atlantic pigtoe (*Fusconaia masoni*), yellow lampmussel (*Lampsilis cariosa*) and green floater (*Lasmigona subviridis*) have all been found in the Orange County portion of the Eno River. Additional